

## Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02

DLOS-06 OIC-04 L-03 DRC-01 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-10 /129 W

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R 221209Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5758

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IMCO

SUBJ: IMCO ASSEMBLY: "PLAYA LARGA" INCIDENT

1. SHARP AND PROTRACTED EXCHANGE BETWEEN CUBA AND CHILE WAS PRECIPITATED IN IMCO ASSEMBLY BY RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY ALGERIA, BULGARIA, CUBA, GDR, GUINEA, IRAN AND YEMEN CONDEMNING SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACK ON CUBAN VESSEL "PLAYA LARGA." EFFORT WAS MADE BY SPONSORS TO APPEND RESOLUTION TO REPORT OF MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE UNDER RUBRIC OF "FREE NAVIGATION OF CARGO SHIPS," BUT IT WAS REFERRED BY COMMITTEE II TO PLENARY AS BEING OUTSIDE JURISDICTION OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.
  2. WHEN TAKEN UP IN PLENARY, CUBAN REP ENLIVENED DEBATE BY WAVING PHOTOS DRAMATIZING EXTENT OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY MILITARY ATTACK ON MERCHANT VESSEL. FACTS THEN FURTHER DISTORTED BY YEME REP WHO IDENTIFIED U.S. AS ATTACKER. (AFTER U.S. OBJECTED TO FALSE CHARGE, YEMEN REP TOOK FLOOR AGAIN TO CORRECT HIS STATEMENT AND THEREAFTER APOLOGIZED PRIVATELY TO DELEGATION FOR ERROR.) CHILEAN REP READ COUNTERING FACTS INTO RECORD, AND EMPHASIZED THAT CONDUCT OF "PLAYA LARGA" JUSTIFIED
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ACTION, WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES

UNDER OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

3. POLEMICS RAN INTO SECOND DAY BEFORE CONCERTED ACTION BY WEO DELS MANAGED TO FORCE CLOSE OF DEBATE (24 (US)-14-16) IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHETHER CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED ON GROUNDS THAT AS POLITICAL ISSUE IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO IMCO ASSEMBLY. SAME MAJORITY THEN PROMPTLY RULED (25(US)-15-13) THAT DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS INAPPROPRIATE.

4. CHAIRMAN HAD GRATUITOUSLY RULED DURING FOREGOING PROCEDURAL MOVES THAT REJECTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD NOT PRECLUDE CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVES, AND MEXICAN REP QUICKLY TABLED MOTHERHOOD-TYPE RESOLUTION SIMPLY CONDEMNING ACTS "WHICH MIGHT PUT INTO DANGER HUMAN LIVES AND SAFETY AT SEA." IT CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO "PLAYA LARGA" INCIDENT, AND WAS ADOPTED 51(US)-0-2.

5. COMMENT. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT YANKOV (BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO UK) WAS, IN VIEW OF DELEGATION, PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING DEBATE AS LONG AND ACRIMONIOUS AS IT BECAME, AND COMMENTS FROM NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGATIONS CONFIRM THIS VIEW. WHILE EXTREMELY COMPETENT AND HITHERTO OBJECTIVE CHAIRMAN, YANKOV PLAYED HIGHLY PARTISAN ROLE ON THIS ISSUE AND INTERPOSED SUCCESSION OF DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF THOSE SEEKING TO OBTAIN DECISION ON APPROPRIATENESS OF FIRST RESOLUTION. AS VOTES ULTIMATELY DEMONSTRATED, YANKOV AND THOSE HE SERVED RECOGNIZED PRESUMABLY THAT THEIR OBJECTIVE HAD TO BE IN DEBATE ITSELF AS THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE OF ACHIEVING SORT OF ASSEMBLY DECISION THEY WISHED. IN PURSUING THIS TACTIC FROM THE CHAIR AS FLAGRANTLY AS HE DID, YANKOV MAY HAVE BLOTTED THE COPY BOOK OF THE EE'S AS PRESIDING OFFICERS IN IMCO FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, DETENTION, MARITIME LAW, MARITIME MEETINGS, CARGO SHIPS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** worrelsw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 98  
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**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IMCO ASSEMBLY: "PLAYA LARGA" INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** ETRN, IMCO, (PLAYA LARGA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005